

WASHINGTON.
SATURDAY, December 18, 1897.
CROSBY S. NOYES, Editor.
THE EVENING STAR has a regular and permanent Family Circulation much more than the combined circulation of the other Washington dailies. As a News and Advertising Medium it has no competitor.

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Washington's Public Library.
The law is inimical to the general library interests of this city. So said Mr. Dockery in the House on Thursday referring to the act of June 3, 1896, creating a public library in this city as a supplement of the public educational system of the District.

The enactment of this law was bitterly opposed by Mr. Dockery, and ever since Congress approved the measure in spite of his opposition he has obstructed the project with a venomous hostility that is inexplicable. At the second session of the last Congress he succeeded in causing the failure in conference of the modest appropriation proposed for the maintenance of the library, but on the other hand the House voted down the proposition of himself and his coadjutors that this municipal expense in violation of the act of 1878 should be levied exclusively upon the local tax payers. In the pending District estimates a small appropriation is recommended by the Commissioners for the maintenance of this institution which Congress has created and ordered to be maintained. And Mr. Dockery responds with a proposition for the repeal of the law.

The library act of 1896 is the only piece of legislation ever enacted by Congress for the purpose of giving the workingmen, the school children and the government employees of the capital the circulating library and night reading facilities, which are enjoyed by nearly every little New England village. It was demanded by the labor organizations, the school authorities, the Board of Trade, the citizens' associations, by every organized representative of local public sentiment, and Congress in granting it corrected a fatal omission, which was a shame and disgrace to it as the local legislature of the District.

To meet the absolute necessity of books as working adjuncts in the public schools, small libraries had been formed in some of the buildings, but to complete and perfect its educational system, already so admirable, by adding the people's free university to the free school, Washington sorely needed the proposed library. Its necessity was demonstrated in the name of the 62,000 children of school age in the District, and especially in the name of the 32,000 of this number who were over twelve years of age.

and costly delays in the completion of items of the work. With several contractors under engagement the chances for violation of specifications multiplied and the difficulty of enforcing the stipulations in regard to time limits was greatly increased. Again and again contracts were delayed beyond the specified time and after a period of negotiation almost invariably all penalties were remitted and thus a premium was placed upon a disregard of the contractor's obligations.

Therefore the Star early advocated such a change in the system as that which Secretary Gage now indicates. It is entirely within his own power, so far as the appropriations will permit of complete contracts being let, yet it is to be recognized that Congress frequently first limits the cost of a building and then proceeds to appropriate yearly allowances for the construction. It should surely be possible to devise a form of contract covering an entire job notwithstanding the fact that the money for the work is not all appropriated by the Congress. Such a contingent agreement, dependable for its full effect upon the ultimate appropriation of all the necessary money, might readily be reached between the government and the builders, just as similar contracts are entered into in the case of river and harbor improvements, called "continuing contracts." Secretary Gage has but to apply the initiative to secure more economical system of construction. Had the complete contract plan been followed in the case of the local structure it is safe to say that the building would even now be in service, instead of being fully a year away from its occupation. The engineers of the army and the constructors of the navy could testify convincingly, no doubt, as to the efficacy of the complete contract system, and Secretary Gage has but to refer to many examples adduced by these two corps to demonstrate to Congress the advisability of the new plan, in case legislative action may be found to be necessary to enable him to take the first steps.

Ohio.
The time is near at hand when we shall know the real truth about the senatorial situation in Ohio. The country has been treated to an unusual amount of gossip on the subject ever since the polls closed in November. Now Mr. Hanna is done for. Gov. Bushnell, or somebody else, by a combination of disgruntled republicans and democrats, is to carry off the prize. Now Mr. Hanna is absolutely certain of election. Opposition is admitted, but it lacks both courage and leadership. In the rural phrase, of pleasant origin, it cannot cut the mustard. The two statements have alternated with the happiest effects of mystification, now one and now the other, and each from time to time carrying some new and unimpeachable detail, until people at a distance are justified in wondering what the actual facts may be.

Mr. Hanna is his party's nominee for senator. The nomination was regularly made by the Toledo convention, and is as binding on the party as were other acts performed by that body, some of which have been ratified. Gov. Bushnell was nominated for re-election by that convention. His nomination was no more binding than that of Mr. Hanna. He had no more claims to republican support for governor than Mr. Hanna now has for senator. The Toledo convention could not have been regular as to the one man and irregular as to the other.

Congress election. He will want a second term, of course. He makes his selections from among those who have worked the hardest for him, and they enter upon their duties. Now, if it is in his power to remove these people at his own pleasure he can make as certain of their activity in his second race as he was certain of it in the first. He holds their political lives in the hollow of his hand. But if, once they are installed in office, they are guaranteed a four years' term, or longer, they become in some measure independent, and may control their own pleasure about "hustling" for the boss a second time. As the creatures of his power, they should be subject to him at all times.

As for rotation in office, the movement, if again begun should be swift. The people will demand that. The appetite for place, if encouraged, grows very rapidly. If the government service is to be described and treated as a huge "crib," and the political "hustlers" and "bosses" are invited to come up and feed, no fellow ought to be permitted to keep his place long enough to get fat. After a good, square meal let him fall back and give place to the hungry fellow behind him. Let the old free lunch cry go up: "Come one, come all: room around for great and small."

The Clerks and Christmas.
It is to be sincerely hoped that the movement now in progress in behalf of the closing of Washington stores all day on Christmas day will meet with success. The mercantile clerks of Washington are a faithful, energetic set of men and women, who are loyal to the interests of their employers, and a statement that is based on the grateful testimony of numbers of our leading merchants, that they deserve a Christmas day that is a real Christmas, from the time they get up until they go to bed, and it will undoubtedly meet the approval of all the good people in Washington if this gift is granted them.

It is depressing to note that the announcement of a practical and complete flying machine seldom if ever appears twice concerning the same apparatus.

Now that the six-day bicycle race has been suppressed, some attention might be well bestowed on the terrors of the six-hour congressional speech.

Canada is always willing to talk over the sealing question or to do anything else that consumes time without protecting the seals.

A relief expedition to the Klondike is likely to do much more for humanity than scientific efforts to reach the north pole.

Mr. Croker will gladly watch the old year out, provided he considers it safe to take his eyes off David B. Hill.

When You Order Xmas Supplies From your Grocer

—make sure that your order specifies "Cream Blend" Flour. It's the brand you want for all your Xmas baking—if you are particular.

Cream Blend Flour Is Best.

It's the finest flour that can be made of choicest wheat. And it's THE ONE brand you may rely on to make the most delicious and most nutritious Bread, Rolls, Cake and Pastry that ever graced your table.

B. B. Earnshaw & Bro., Wholesale, 1105-1107 11th St. S.E.

THE ONLY GENUINE HUNYADI WATER.

Hunyadi Janos, BEST NATURAL APERIENT WATER.

FOR CONSTIPATION, DYSPEPSIA, LIVER COMPLAINTS, & HEMORRHOIDS.

"The prototype of all Bitter Waters."—Lancet.

"Speedy, sure, gentle."—British Medical Journal.

CAUTION: See that the label bears the signature of the firm.

Rockers for Grown & Little Folks!

We can supply any Rocker you want—from those grand, ornate, heavy chairs for graying down to the cute little ones for baby. Every pretty shape in all the popular woods, with and without arms, saddle, cabriolet or upholstered seat. Beautiful Rockers from \$1.98 up.

If you intend making a Furniture gift buy this first. Prettier and newer styles and attractive prices!

The Houghton Co., 1214 F St. S.E.

A. B. C. Oatmeal

is not only the best but is now the cheapest, the price being reduced one-third.

Xmas Presents.

GOLD SPECTACLES and EYEGLASSES.

PROPER LENSES put in after Christmas without extra charge.

OPERA GLASSES, With excellent lenses, as low as \$3.50.

KODAKS and CAMERAS from \$5 up.

McAllister & Feast, Opticians, 1311 F St.

LEE Fine COAL!

Johnson Bros., 1206 F St.

Cakes for Xmas

Kraft's Bakery

At the Palais Royal TONIGHT, And Tonight Only.

SPECIAL prices from 6:30 to 9:30 tonight that shall help to fulfill the ambition of the proprietor—to make the sales of this week \$10,000 ahead of the corresponding week of last year.

Best Ostrich Feather Boas.

\$1 off the price marked on all Boas up to \$8. Two dollars off those marked at various prices from \$9 to \$14. \$3 off those from \$15 to \$25. What better Christmas Present?

Tonight only. Second Floor.

\$3.79 for \$5 Silk Umbrellas.

\$3.79 for Ladies' 26-inch and Men's 28-inch Paragon Umbrellas; tight-collaring on American steel and English wood sticks. Handles for ladies of silver, ivory, jet, etc. Those for men of natural woods, in Prince of Wales and club effects.

Tonight only. First Floor.

\$4.89 for Ladies' \$6.98 Mackintoshes.

\$4.89 for the Improved Double Texture Garments, in maroon, garnet, brown, blue and black. Skirt to button over the hips; detachable English military cape that alone will give \$5 worth of protection and comfort on many an occasion.

Tonight only. First Floor.

25c for \$1.25 Copyright Books.

25c for "Professional Thieves and Detectives," by Allan Pinkerton. "The American Duchess," by Princess de Bourges. "The Dissolution," by Ritter Dandylion. "Fort Reno," by Mrs. D. B. Dyar. "Behind Plastered Walls," by W. M. Corbush. "Idwymon," by Fred. N. Randle. "The Time is Coming," by W. B. Bolmer. "Horace Everett," by Marquise Clara Lanza, etc., etc. All cloth bound.

59c for Ladies' \$1 Kid Gloves.

59c for those English Tan 4-button Kid Gloves, imported for a New York firm, but coming here because of the firm's subsequent shakiness and our cash offer.

Tonight only. First Floor.

98c for \$1.75 Sterling Silver Articles.

98c for choice of Cut Glass Powder Boxes with heavy silver tops. 98c for 8-inch Clothes Brushes with heavy silver backs. 98c for Whisk Brooms with heavy silver handles. Each piece stamped and guaranteed "Sterling Silver," 925-1000 fin.

Tonight only. First Floor.

9c for 25c Toys and Games.

9c for choice of Toy Guns, Ten Pins, China Tea Sets, Dolls' Beds, Dogs on Wheels, Wagon Sets, Wheelbarrows, Toy Bikes, Ham Saws, Revolving China, with horse, Britannia Tea Sets, Rattles, with bone handles, Six Tea Spoons, Toy Irons, Tin Kitchen Sets, Leather Horse Reins, Noah Arks, Base Ball Games, A. B. C. Blocks, Robinson Crusoe and Snake Games.

Tonight only. Basement Floor.

\$4.50 for \$5.50 Cloth and Napkins.

\$4.50 for Pattern Table Cloth of Pure Linen Satin-finish Damask, 24x24 yards, with one dozen Napkins to match. In pretty box, with Christmas card.

Tonight only. Second Floor.

59c for Men's \$1 Underwear.

59c for All-wool, Cashmere, Merino and Fleece Bal, Shirts and Drawers, in all the usually scarce sizes for big and small men. Only 39c for similar sizes in 50c quality garments.

Tonight only. First Floor.

\$1.25 for \$2 to \$3 Furniture.

\$1.25 for choice of Malachite Green Jardiniere Stands, Oak and Mahogany Tables, Oak and Mahogany Rockers, Two-fold Japanese Fire Screens, Three-fold Japanese Screens, 5 feet high, 2-yard-square Tapestry Table Covers, India Seats, etc., etc.

Tonight only. Fourth Floor.

62c for 98c Seal Pocket Books.

62c for Genuine Seal Pocket Books, lined with French calfskin. The best of 98c Pocket Books, that will outwear a half dozen of the ordinary kind. And we will stamp name in gold free of extra charge.

Tonight only. First Floor.

79c for \$1 Flannelette Wrappers.

79c for the Palais Royal's \$1 Wrappers—the well-known best at a dollar. They have yoke back cut. All sizes.

Tonight only. Third Floor.

39c for Various 50c Stockings.

39c for the 50c Xmas Boxes, containing three pairs of Ladies' Fast Black Hosiery, with improved ribbed tops. 50c for the Ladies' 50c Pair Novelty Hosiery; some in gay colors, some black with embroidered ankles. 50c for Children's best 50c French Plaid Stockings, in sizes 6 to 12.

Tonight only. First Floor.

\$1.29 for \$2.25 Skirts and Waists.

\$1.29 for the Ladies' Dress Skirts of black figured brilliantine, museline lining, velvet binding. \$1.29 for the Flannel Waists, with yoke front and back, button cuffs, lanced linen collar. Black and red.

Tonight only. Third Floor.

19c for 33c Boxes Stationery.

19c for Artistic Box, containing 60 sheets of paper and 60 envelopes—the fashionable plate-finish, selling for 33c box at the stationer's.

Tonight only. First Floor.

PALAIS ROYAL, A. LISNER, G St.

Headquarters For Xmas Goods

all newest and finest in the market at bottom prices. Why not buy NOW before rush begins?

Russian Candies.

Made in St. Petersburg. Chocolates and Bonbons. In fancy boxes—from 10c. to 75c. A box, also, by the pound—60c. to 75c.

Fry's Chocolates.

Imported. In fancy boxes. We were able to secure a small lot only—so don't delay your order.

Whitman's Candies.

In fancy boxes. Very fine.

4 pounds for \$1.00

2 pounds for \$1.00

1 pound for \$1.00

25c boxes of Raisins \$1.25

8 lbs. best Mixed Nuts \$1

Imported Dolls, 35c.

Filled with Fry's delicious Chocolates. Only a limited supply. 25c each.

5 lbs. Fruit Cake, \$1.25.

Finest Home-made Fruit Cake in 5-pound tin boxes—only \$1.25.

5 lbs. Old Jamaica Rum and Brandy for \$2.00—only \$1 for full quart bottles.

See window display of IMPORTED ORNAMENTS.

W. B. Hoover, FINE GROCERIES, WINES AND CIGARS, 1417 New York Ave. de18-54, 56

Let Our Experts Pack Your "Xmas Boxes"

You'll need them if you're going to send "Xmas boxes" to your friends out of town. Our expert packers will pack and ship everything so there will be no danger of breakage, loss or delay. Our charge will be small enough.

Drop postal or telephone.

MERCHANT'S PARCEL DELIVERY CO. 929-931 D St. Phone 659. de18-54

Case of 24 bottles—only \$1.

Your Xmas dinner won't be complete without our famous 'Ruby' Lager

It's the most delicious of malt beverages—and a great aid to digestion.

Case of 24 bottles—delivered in unfettered wagons—only \$1. Write or telephone.

Washington Brewery Co.

414 and F Sts. N.E. Phone 2154. de18-14, 15, 16, 18

"Haven't you noticed it?"

At no time during the year is the superiority of the electric light over gas light so noticeable as in the days preceding Christmas, when all the stores are open evenings. Haven't you noticed how much brighter and more inviting are the establishments which are illumined by electricity? Merchants who sell under gas lights should not lose a minute in substituting electricity. We'll supply the current.

U. S. Electric Lighting Co. 213 14th St. N.W. Phone 77. de18-20d

Secure "CERES" Flour

==for your Xmas Cakes and Pastries==

noodler Flour is good enough by half! You'll have reason during the holidays to be thankful for the forethought which prompted you to use this grand reliable Flour. Get 'Ceres' Flour from your grocer—we're only wholesale it.

Wm. M. Galt & Co., Wholesale and Retail Feed Dealers, Wholesale Flour Merchants, 1st and Indiana Ave.

When you grow weary of having your laundry sent home "tattered and torn" then drop postal or 'phone (592) for us to call and take charge of it. Our modern machinery enables us to get the dirt out of the clothes without the slightest injury to them. Send today.

Frazee's Laundry, 512 8th St. 1322 14th St. 005 12th St. de18-40d

\$1.29 for \$2.25 Skirts and Waists.

\$1.29 for the Ladies' Dress Skirts of black figured brilliantine, museline lining, velvet binding. \$1.29 for the Flannel Waists, with yoke front and back, button cuffs, lanced linen collar. Black and red.

Tonight only. Third Floor.

19c for 33c Boxes Stationery.

19c for Artistic Box, containing 60 sheets of paper and 60 envelopes—the fashionable plate-finish, selling for 33c box at the stationer's.

Tonight only. First Floor.

Xmas Furs REDUCED!

Think what a grand chance this reduction gives you to buy magnificent Xmas gifts for a very little money. All our READY-MADE FURS—Stuffs, Coats, Capes, and Skirts—will be closed out at very much under regular prices—WHICH WERE VERY LOW.

A few furs left at 50c.—very few at 75c.—style.

SAKS FUR CO. COR. 15TH AND G STREETS. de18-40d